THE שקל SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

Three Numismatic Tales
Shalom Golda
Keren Hayesod Medal
Maurice Frankenhuis (1894-1969)
A.I.N.A. Literary Award
Meet John D. McQuaide
Scope of the Israeli Numismatist
Gould's Gelt Guide
Pre-Exhilic Palestine Monetary System
Jewish History on Coins
Club News, and Others
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The SHEKEL

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NATHAN SOBEL, *Editor-in-Chief* / TOVA DUBITSKY, *Assistant Editor* / ARIE KINDLER, *Numismatic Consultant and Associate Editor* / YAAKOV MESHORER, *Numismatic Consultant and Associate Editor* / EDWARD JANIS, *Associate Editor* / MEL WACKS, *Associate Editor* / WILMA THOMPSON, *Associate Editor* / MATTHEW J. VAN DER VOORT, *Associate Editor* / LEON T. LINDHEIM, *Contributing Editor* / ARNOLD S. ROSEN, *Assistant Editor.*

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past few months have been very hectic for me, but as long as it pertains to Israel numismatics, I enjoy it.

At the American Numismatic Association convention held in Philadelphia, Yitzhak Avni, director-general of the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp., Ephraim Levy, director of the I.G.C.M.C. and Consul of Israel and myself, attended the opening of the United States Mint, and the cornerstone laying of the Franklin Mint.

Ephraim Levy and I also attended the Canadian Numismatic Association convention and had the pleasure of meeting a few outstanding Israeli numismatists such as Ben David, Dr. Eli Grad, and Dr. Jacob H. Sachs, who will be the forerunners in the inauguration of the I.N.S. of Ottawa, Canada.

AINA welcomes the newly-formed INS of Michigan. To its officers and the board of directors I extend my heartfelt thanks for the warm reception.

Have been invited to attend the F.U.N. convention in Miami, Fla. as speaker at their numismatic forum. Am looking forward to meeting the Israel numismatic Society of Greater Miami.

For those of our members who have long desired to visit the Holy Land, here is an unprecedented opportunity within everyone's budget to join the numismatic group to Israel. Our second annual tour is scheduled for March 1-11, 1970. I have been ably assisted by Ephraim Levy who will make this tour with us. From Israel we have the cooperation of Yitzhak Avni, who is looking forward to greeting us.

MORRIS BRAM, *President*

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

• *Literary Award:* In this issue you will find a list of the 20 major articles that qualify for the AINA Literary Award from Volume 1 (1968) of *The Shekel.* The great response from our readers has been heartening, but we would like to hear from yet more.

• *Content of The Shekel:* When you write, we would appreciate it if you will tell us what type of material you would like to see in *The Shekel.* Remember, it is *your* publication! If you possess the ability to write, we urge you to submit an article. Please type it, double spaced . . . and leave the editing to us.

• *Prof. Genachowski:* In our constant search for contributors to *The Shekel,* we are happy to introduce to you Prof. Dov Genachowski from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has written several articles for *The Shekel,* the first of which appears in this issue.

• *Frankenhuis:* We are sorry to announce that Maurice Frankenhuis, a member of the editorial board of *The Shekel* has passed away after a lengthy illness. Mr. Frankenhuis created the now-famous medal memorializing the six million Jewish martyrs.

• *Maurice M. Gould:* Associate editor of *The Shekel,* Maurice M. Gould, has just reached his 50th anniversary in coins. Which numismatist has not heard the name Gould? A scholar, lecturer, writer, author of books, Mr. Gould is a good friend of anybody and anything having to do with numismatics.

NATHAN SOBEL, Editor

shalom Golda

Her Excellency Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, was welcomed to New York City by Mayor John V. Lindsay on Sept. 29 at a large reception in City Hall.

Mrs. Meir presented Mayor Lindsay with the Medal of Jerusalem (see *The Shekel* Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 14 for a description of the medal), and in like manner Mayor Lindsay gave Mrs. Meir the Key to New York, saying, "Mrs. Meir, New York City is yours."

Photo by: Paul Rice

UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

The Shekel has learned from very reliable sources that a state medal commemorating the golden jubilee of the Keren Hayesod — United Israel Appeal will be struck in the near future by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, appointed the following committee to select an appropriate design: Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the United Israel Appeal; Dr. Chaim Gamzu, director of the Tel Aviv Museum; Prof. Moshe Davis, dean of the School of Contemporary Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; Dr. Moshe Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem; Bezalel Shatz, well-known Israeli artist; and Yitzhak Avni, director-general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

Artists and designers in Israel have been invited to submit proposed sketches for the medal. The theme is to be based on the functions of the United Israel Appeal which include immigration, agricultural settlement, and housing.

The medal data is not yet known.

The Keren Hayesod celebrates the 50th Anniversary of its founding in January, 1970. Since 1920 it has raised funds for Israel's immigration and resettlement program.

A. I. N. A. Study Tour

(Continued from *The Shekel*, Vol. 2, No. 2)

by Nathan Sobel

Continuing on from the Golan Heights on Monday, March 17, the AINA tour proceeded to Nazareth. After a short walking tour through the center, a visit to the famous Church of the Annunciation, and souvenir and

Kadman Museum: The two sides of a coin.

coin hunting, the tour continued through Afula, central town in the fertile Valley of Jezreel, and through a string of very prosperous *kibbutzim*.

We reached Tiberias at noon time, lunching on the shores of the Lake Kinnereth. Mayor of Tiberias Meir

Tiberias – Mosiac floor of ancient Synagogue.

Edrei, and other town dignitaries had prepared a special reception for us. We visited the springs of high sulphur content in which bathing is most healthful. One of the four holy cities in Israel (Safed, Hebron, and Jerusalem are the other three), Tiberias is named after the Roman Emperor Tiberius, and is situated 212 metres (about 660 feet) below sea level. We also visited many tombs of famous rabbis, including the

Flags unfurl over geometric-shaped Kadman Museum.

Rambam (Maimonides), ancient synagogues, and the Tiberias Municipal Museum of Antiquities. The collectors of ancient Judaica were very enthused about the vast collection of ancient local coins.

We then proceeded through the Val-

A sip from Banyas, Jordan Headwaters.

ley of Beth Shean into the liberated West Bank area. The first stopover was shocking. It was outside the Arab city of Jenin, where the Jordanian Arab Legion massacred 51 Israeli sol-

Monument for 51 young heroes.

diers from behind. This was the heaviest toll of casualties in the Six-Day War. Here they lie, young 17, 18, and 19 year-old heroes. The monument is very simple and touching. One stares at it in disbelief. It is composed of a pile of 51 rocks, one for each fallen soldier. Behind it a disabled Russian T-34 tank stands, its gun pointing down, as if in mourning, and surrounding this memorial is a broken tank chain. There were many other visitors nearby, and across the street an Arab cafe, with Arabs sipping coffee, as if all were well.

Southward, we stopped off in She-

The Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

chem (Nablus). The population here was always known as the most hostile. We were therefore warned not to wander away. I felt as if I were placed in an ancient Biblical setting. From one side is the green Mount Gerizim and the other is the cursed, barren rocky Mount Eival. The former is where the Samaritans to this day sacrifice the sacrificial lamb to God on the eve of Passover.

From here our group travelled on to Jerusalem, the Holy City. We rode alongside the walled old city. Everyone serious, pensive, and silent, eyes staring at the ancient wall. A sort of Bibli-

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The Western (Wailing) Wall: Holiest Shrine of Judaism. (Note: Men's Section on left and women's on right).

The Guardians of the City

. . . Three Numismatic Tales

by Prof. Dov Genachowski, Jerusalem

Jerusalem has always had more than its "fair" share of paper tokens. Some of these are extremely interesting, and all are fast disappearing, taking away with them small or large portions of history. For this reason alone, the keeping of some record of these multi-coloured pieces of paper would be justified.

What we are discussing here, of course, is not "real" paper money, but paper tokens, replacing money — not always for the obvious reasons, as will be seen. Following is just a sample, taken at random from just one district of the city—"Meah Shearim," the home of the Neturei Karta sect.

"Neturei Karta"

"Neturei Karta"* means, literally, "guardians of the city" in Aramaic.

*__Editor's Note:__ The phrase "Neturei Karta" originated from an incident in which Rabbi Judah Ha-Nasi sent Rabbis Hiyya and Ashi on a pastoral tour of inspection. In one town they asked to see the "guardians of the city" and the city guard was paraded before them. "These are not the guardians of the city, but its destroyers," they declared. "Who then are the guardians?" they were asked, and they replied, "The scribes and the scholars."

— From The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion edited by R. J. Zwi Werblowsky and Geoffrey Wigoder.

Dr. Dov Genachowski is economist of the Bank of Israel and expert on international finance. His hobby—numismatics—arose from his interest in history. He has written several books on medieval Jewish history and numerous articles on economics. His coin collection is rather selective: coins connected with Israel and Palestine of all periods, with a special emphasis on tokens and other money substitutes used in the country during the 17th century. Prof. Genachowski, a member of the Israel Numismatic Society as well as the American Numismatic Association, a judge of the Kadman Numismatic Prize, author of many articles dealing with coins, lives in Jerusalem with his wife and four children. He is also professor in the Hebrew University.

This is the name of a small group of ultra-orthodox Jews in Jerusalem, some of them belonging to families resident in the city for several generations, who consider themselves apart not only from the non-orthodox part of the population, but from the religious elements as well. Certainly they do not even "recognize" the state of Israel—this symbolizing an usurpation of the word of God, as the saving of his people will come only at the end of the days, when Messiah shall come. It is a closed community, whose men are for the most part Rabbis or students in Yeshivoth (rabbinical schools) and the meagre household income is generated by the work of the womenfolk as seamstresses and the like. Since their standard of living is purposely low (ostentation is against the Law) they do manage, having very large families—8 to 10 children seems to be the norm.

The six tokens photographed here were issued by this community in the late thirties and early forties, when Palestine was still a Mandate territory. They are in the values of ½, 1, 2, 5, 10 and 50 Mils, and all carry the same text: "B"H (abbreviation for 'with the help of God')/Jerusalem/Neturei Karta/ One Mil" with only the value changing. They are printed in ordinary letter-press on several colours of paper, but apparently there is no relation between the colour of the paper and the value. All are perforated, having been printed in sheets. In each value, some are gummed on the back, some are without adhesive—as these tokens had dual purpose. Those with

the adhesive back were used by the "Neturei Karta" in a similar way to the "Kofer HaYishuv" stamps of the general Jewish Community in Palestine—to denote a sort of internal tax payment. The ungummed tokens were replacement for money, for internal use within the Neturei Karta community, which was always poor and always short of cash.

It is not clear when these tokens were discontinued. According to some, there were some "in circulation" even after the establishment of the State of Israel, as the "Neturei Karta" tried to avoid the use of "Zionist" money. Most of those queried stated, however, that there was no use made of these after 1947.

"One Piece of Sugar"

After the establishment of Israel, Amram Blau, then leader of "Neturei Karta", had troubles. He did not recognize" the usurping "Zionist state", did not carry its Identity Card and avoided even using its money. He could do so, since he spent all his days studying in a Synagogue, but for one thing—charity giving. The Lord ordered "Thou shall aid thy poor brother" and Amram Blau had to do it. How to give to the poor without using the "Zionist money" was the problem. For some years, he managed to avoid it by giving to the poor the old Mandate coins of 1 or 2 Mils. But these coins became collectors' items, valued at much more than face value, and were no longer obtainable. Another solution was called for.

It should be remembered that in the early fifties Israel was under an "austerity" regime. Mass immigration plus shortage of foreign exchange made necessary such a regime, under which food, clothing and other goods were rationed, to be sold not only against money, but against "points" as well. Sugar was one of the rationed commodities—and the ration books were issued, of course, by the then Ministry of Supply and Rationing—thus precluding the "Netueri Karta" from using them. They could, and did, buy the rationed goods they needed on the "grey market". But their poor were in dire straits indeed. So Amram Blau began giving his charity "pieces of sugar". Not actual pieces, but paper tokens, such as that photographed here, which says: "In charity I shall

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Paper Tokens of the Neturei Karta.

Two in One: Coins and Stamps Together

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation and the Philatelic Services of the Ministry of Posts have agreed to assist collectors of coins and stamps by selling both in the same offices.

In recognition that the two most popular hobbies have common denominators and that often the same person is interested in both, the two agencies decided to combine distribution as a service to the public in general and the collector in particular. Now the collector can satisfy his interest in these two hobbies by applying to only one agency.

Shown in the photos are the consolidated offices of the Israel Government Coins & Medals and the Philatelic Services in Jerusalem, and the distribution of both in the Tel Aviv agency.

Consolidated Offices in Jerusalem

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come before you etc. (Psalms 17.16)/ B"/H/ good for/One Piece of Sugar/ Regular/ Adar 5712 in the holy city of Jerusalem may it be rebuilt soon/ payable every Monday and Thursday except holidays in the Synagogue/ "K'hal Yereim Hasidim" between 4 and 7 local time".

I have seen such tokens also for ½ piece of sugar and 2 pieces. Apparently Amram Blau issued separate tokens for Pesach (Passover), hence the "regular", to be distinguished from "Kosher for Pesach". The date of issue, Adar 5712, is March 1952 according to the Hebrew calendar. "Local time" here means the opposite of "European time" — i.e. a time system which divides the day and the night, each, into 12 equal parts, irregardless of the length of the day, used by "Neturei Karta".

Printed in black and red letterpress on greenish bristol paper, four tokens to the sheet, used until 1955-56.

Poor Man's Concert Hall

Aharon David Weisfish had a shop on Mea-Shearim Street, which was an eye-sore to all of "Neturei Karta"— officially, that is. Clandestinally, many of them were his customers. "Shop", anyway, is too grandiose a term, even though its owner called it, as on the illustrated token, "A shop and a travel agency". It was a hole in the wall, really, and its main merchandise was newspapers. This alone, selling condemned newspapers — the ordinary daily paper, weeklies, nothing risky — was enough to identify Weisfish as a sinner, despite the fact that many members of his large family were mainstays of the "Neturei Karta". The man was as inoffensive as can be imagined. His hobby was to visit,

every week, all the hospitals in Jerusalem, wishing every patient "speedy recovery" on weekdays and "good Sabbath" on the seventh day. But he was also crazy about music—cantorial, synagogue music that is. In the back of his small store he had an ancient gramophone, a collection of 78' records, and for 1 Mil until 1948 and 5 Agoroth thereafter, you could listen to your pick. If you were an enthusiast, you could hear all you wanted without paying — sometimes drinking a cup of tea from the ever-boiling kettle. What irked the neighborhood more — the newspapers or the records — I really don't know. I suspect the latter — this was really a waste of time which should be devoted to study. The shop was stoned, covered with derogatory placards and so on countless times, until the death of its owner a few years ago.

The token issued by this shop testifies to the poverty of its owner and

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Gould's Gelt Guide

by Maurice M. Gould, N.L.G.

You have all heard the expression, "Buy the book before the coin." I have always been an advocate of a good numismatic library and a collector without reference books is like a fish out of water.

Compared to other countries and other series, the references pertaining to modern and ancient Israel are few in number and many of the older issues are difficult to obtain. May I suggest that one should start with two recent books, both well done and of great value to the collector. They are "The History of Modern Israel's Money" by Sylvia Haffner and a catalog recently published by the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation.

The Haffner book is already sold out and she is now in the process of preparing a revised edition, bringing all material up to date and with new additions.

My own library also contains copies of *The Shekel,* "Israel Numismatic Bulletins," and "Israel Numismatic Journals," all of which are replete with numismatic information.

"Israel's Money" by Leo Kadman is also a worthwhile addition to any library and for a time was the only reference of its type.

Among other books in my library which I used for reference are "Great Jewish Portraits in Metal" by Cecil Roth; "Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins" by Romanoff; and the following books on the ancient pieces: "A Handy Guide to Jewish Coins" by Rev. Rogers, M.A.; "The History of Coins and Symbols in Ancient Israel" by Wirgin and Mandell; "Ancient Jewish Coins" by Adolf Reifenberg.

Another book recently made available to everyone was Frederic W. Madden's "History of Jewish Coinage and of Money in the Old and New Testament." This is a reprint and worthy of a spot in your library.

One of the outstanding catalogs was

GOULDEN ANNIVERSARY

The Shekel is pleased and proud to pay tribute to Maurice M. Gould on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary in numismatics.

Mr. Gould, an associate editor of *The Shekel,* is known throughout the coin world as author, columnist, lecturer, and member of about 50 numismatic groups.

The Shekel takes this opportunity to wish Mr. Gould congratulations on his "golden anniversary" and to hope for many more "goulden" years to come.

the auction sale of April 3, 1963, Lucerne, Switzerland, by Adolph Hess, titled "Jewish Coins." This catalog has beautiful plates and shows many of the rarities in the Jewish series and a great deal of excellent information is presented.

For background material, I can recommend such books as, "A History of Palestine From 135 A.D. to Modern Times" by James Parkes and "Jewish Money in Folkways, Cultural History and Folklore," by Isaac Rivkind (this book is in Yiddish).

There is also "Palestine Before the Hebrews' 'by Emmanuel Anati, which is lavishly illustrated and then a special book which I prized as it was given to me by my good friend, Matthew van der Voort of the Netherlands, who is a member of the Board of A.I.N.A.— "Altneuland" Old and the New Land, by Theodor Herzl. This book, with its colored as well as black and white photos, is one of the most outstanding in my library.

Just think how much pleasure you can realize from your collection by knowing the background, the history, the economics, the art and the customs of the times, whether they be ancient or modern.

The new publications coming out are attracting new collectors to the scene. To my knowledge, for the first time a series of articles that I wrote for the Coin Dealer Newsletter discussed the investment possibilities of the modern Israel coins, the low mintages, the tie-in with ancient coins, and the unprecedented popularity are discussed.

Just off the press is a new catalog on "The Coinage of the Palestine Mandate" by Richard J. Trowbridge, F.R.N.S., F.A.B.N.S., of Long Beach, California, and I am very proud that the book was dedicated to Jean and Maurice Gould, along with Claire and Ben Abelson, who are well known to all collectors in the Israeli field.

This book should make the Palestinian coins another series which will be sought after and except for the common pieces, most of the coins will disappear from dealer stocks, especially those in top condition.

The Shekel is pleased to announce that plans are being made for the second annual AINA Numismatic Tour to Israel in March, 1970. Full details will follow in the next issue of *The Shekel*. Also see President's Message in this issue.

N.S.

Continued from page 10

clients together: "No. (27)/Store and Travel Agency/ Mea-Shearim, Jerusalem./ To testify that I have written on my account (i.e., that I owe the bearer)/the amount of 1 Mil/ Aharon David Weisfish."

Printed in letter-press, black on grey card-board. I could not find out when it was in use—another aspect of the vagueness of the "business".

"Darling – have you seen my book 'Coins of Israel'?"

The Scope Of The Israeli Numismatist

by Edward Janis

Since my return from the AINA tour, I have asked dozens of American collectors what they thought that their counterpart, the Israeli collectors were interested in. Invariably, the answer was Ancient Judea and Modern Israel. This, I found to my own amazement, was about 10% correct. The revelation came to me when I was invited to judge the first public exhibit of the Haifa chapter of INS under the "American" system. The material was extremely diversified. Excluding an exhibit of "Mint Errors" of Modern Israel Coins (off-center, clipped planchets, laminations, etc.) there were no exhibitors of Modern Israel or Ancient Judea. In a separate room, the Haifa Municipal Museum of Ancient Arts assembled an Exhibition of Jewish Coins. The first fifteen cases were Maccabean Dynasty, Herodian Dynasty, the Roman Procurators of Judea, Coins of The Jewish War (66-70 C.E.), Silver and Bronze Coins of the Bar-Kochba War (132-135 C.E.) and a case of Judea Capta and related coins. That exhibit changed my ideas of rarity. The First Revolt shekels were dated from year 1 to 4. Only one of the ½ shekels were missing. Remember that the Nerva sestertius with the FISCI IVDAICI-CALVMNIA SVBLATA reverse that is in the Smithsonian Institution was found in the bed of the Tiber and is at best in poor condition. Here in the case were two of them showing obverse and reverse—the poorer one was very fine with the most beautiful green patina imaginable. The Hadrian sestertius struck in commemoration of the Emperor's visit to Judea prior to the Bar-Kochba War (much rarer than the foregoing) was as close to uncirculated as any bronze that I have ever seen. In the twenty minutes that I spent in this exhibit room, I was joined by Nahum Shahaf, Haifa head of INS and two local Haifans who came to see the well publicized premier exhibit.

In the main exhibit room a few hundred were standing two and three deep looking at the forty odd cases lining the room showing the efforts of twenty-eight exhibitors. The varied displays included Vatican Coins, Islamic Coinage, Byzantine Coins of Palestine, Jewish Medallic Portrait Medals, Concentration Camp Tokens, 18th & 19th Century Polish Silver Issues, Coins of Imperial Russia, thalers of the German States. The more that I spoke to the exhibitors, the clearer the picture became. The Israeli collector if he is not a sabra (native born) will usually collect numismatica from his country of origin. Psychologically, he usually goes back to more peaceful times than his own more troublesome period.

Coin collecting is much more universal than it is here in the United States. The meetings of the Haifa branch of the INS were weekly. Noted numismatists including the late Leo Kadman, the K twins Klimowsky and Kindler, traveled from kibbutz to kibbutz on well planned numismatic lecture tours. Yaakov Meshorer in 1964 gave a series of seven lectures on radio. This popular series covered not only the ancient coinage but also the origin of design of modern Israel coins.

With a background like this, you can understand my surprise when a collector asked me to look at his Crusader pieces.

On analysis, we may therefore break down the collection categories in the following areas:

Direct Jewish Numismatica Pertaining to the Palestinian Area

Ancient —

Hasmonaean Dynasty (135–37 B.C.E.)
Herodian Dynasty (37 B.C.E.–93 C.E.)
Coins of the Jewish War (66–70 C.E.)
Coins of the Bar–Kochba War (132–135)

Modern —

State of Israel (1948–date)
Commercial Coinage –
Pruta and Mil Series
Agora and Lira Series
Commemorative Coinage –
Chanuka – 1 Lira – C.N. (1958–63)
Independence – 5 Pounds Silver (1958–67)
½ Shekel C.N. (1961–1962)
10 Pounds Silver (1967–date)
Banknotes –
Fractional & Whole (1948–date)
State of Israel Medals (incused on edge) – includes approved Liberation medal

Indirect Jewish Numismatica Pertaining to the Palestinian Area

Ancient —

The Coins of the Persian Period
The Coinage of the Procurators Of Judea
The Judea Capta issues minted in the Palestinian area

Modern —

Palestine Mandate Coinage and Currency (1927–1946)

Non–Jewish Numismatica Pertaining to the Palestinian Area

Ancient — Pre–Roman

Coins that circulated in the Palestinian area—Phoenicia, Tyre, Seleucids, Ptolemies, Syria, etc.
Post Bar–Kochba Roman City Coinage of Palestine and Phoenicia including military coinage (Hadrian to (22–268 C.E.) Gallienus) – Aelia Capitolina, Ascalon, Acco, Tiberias, Jaffa, Gaza, etc. (Ed. Note—The "nine coin cities" as depicted in the modern medal series is wholly inadequate. Dr. Klimowsky lists over thirty in his listing of Palestine City–Coins).
Byzantine Rule Coins (395–638 C.E.) Christian period
Arab–Moslem Period Coinage (638–1099 C.E.)

Medieval —

Crusader Coinage (1099–1291)

Modern —

Turkish Coinage (1516–1917 C.E.)
British Mandate Coins & Currency (1917–1948)

Direct Jewish Numismatica

Coins, Medals, Tokens and Currency of Jews, Jewish Events, Jewish Places, Art or Religion.

Ancient — Judea Capta struck in Rome

Modern — Medallic Jewish Portraits

Indirect Jewish Numismatica

Coins, Medals, Tokens and Currency whose main theme is non–Jewish but which can be associated with a Jew, Jewish group, a Jewish event, or a Jewish place.

Ancient — Shekel of Tyre

Modern — Coins and Medals of Jewish coiners (Poland 12th & 13th Cent.)

Anti–Semitic — Coins, Tokens & Currency–Medals of "The Corn Jew" (1694–1695), Jud Suss medals, Hitler counterfeit $1 U. S. alluding to the Jew Morgenthau making the curernncy worthless.

General Numismatics — with specialty as to country of origin or topical interest (ships, transportation tokens, etc.)

The collector in Israel is intense and searching. It is in the fields of City-Coinage, Crusader issues and Byzantine coinage that I saw the greatest enthusiasm and dedication.

I did not wish to criticize the efforts of the 23 exhibitors whose cases were filled with top material in professional holders, geometric patterns etc. Two wall cases contained a few hundred talers without one word of explanation! I put my arm around a twelve-year-old boy and said to the exhibitor, "Your exhibit is for this boy. It should tell a story. He should walk away with something that he will remember." The Haifan shrugged, "He'll learn. You should know."

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . . .

All the coins of modern Israel bear a symbol which was borrowed from an ancient Jewish coin? This linking of past and present is meant to serve as a reminder of past Jewish heritage as it affects life in Israel today.

Jewish History as Portrayed in Coins

By Dr. Aaron Hendin, (M.D.)

Continued from Vol. 2, No. 2, Page 25

2. The Maccabean or Hasmonean Period.

Antiochus dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem to Jupiter. He ordered all copies of the Torah to be burned. He abolished circumcision. He caused a large sow to be sacrificed on the Temple's altar of burnt offerings. He, also, sprinkled the Temple with alcohol.

It was at this time that a champion of the people appeared—Mattathias, a priest of the Joarib or Hasmonean family. Mattathias, in the presence of his five sons, killed a Jew who was making an idolatrous sacrifice. He, also, slew the king's commissioner in charge of the rites.

Mattathias and his five sons fled to the mountains. Here they gathered a band of the faithful Jews as an army and thus began the Maccabean or Hasmonean revolt.

Realizing his death was near, Mattathias called his sons together and appointed Judas as captain of the army and Simon as leader of the people. Mattathias died in 167 B.C.E.

Judas and his faithful followers brought the revolt to a successful end in 165 B.C.E. He then repaired and cleaned the desecrated Temple. To this day we commemorate the Hasmonean victory as the feast of Chanukah. Judas was given the name of Maccabeus (hammer) and so the name Maccabean replaced Hasmonean.

Judas and his army successfully repulsed several Syrian invasions. About this time an alliance was made with Rome. In 161 B.C.E. Judas was killed in battle. His brother Jonathan became

Continued on page 22

Small Bronze Coin Of Antiochus VII 138–129 BCE
Obv.: Anchor
Rev.: Rose

Lepton or Mite of John Hyrcannus 135–104 BCE (First type of Jewish Coin)
Obv.: Double Cornucopia
Poppy Head Between
Rev.: Inscription within Wreath

Lepta or "Widows Mites" Alexander Jannaeus 103–76 BCE
Obv.: Anchor
Rev.: Sun Wheel

Etruscan Circa 500 BCE Bronze Coin Showing Similar Design to coin of A. Jannaeus
Obv.: Star or Sun Wheel

MAURICE FRANKENHUIS
1894-1969

Maurice Frankenhuis, medalist and coin collector par excellence, passed away on Yom Kippur, September 22, 1969. The late Mr. Frankenhuis was born in Holland on February 24, 1894, and lived there until the middle of World War II when he, his wife and their two daughters were imprisoned by the Nazis in various concentration camps. After their liberation, they returned to Holland and eventually made their way to this country. In his seventy-five productive years, Maurice Frankenhuis was known not only for business acumen and excellent reputation, but for a world-famous collection of military decorations, war posters, emergency war money, stamps, and gold, silver, and bronze coins and medals.

He was recognized for his notable contribution to the archives of the 20th century and throughout his life he displayed a talent for getting hold of significant and unique memorabilia. His vast store of World War I materials, donated to Museum Ha'aretz, Kadman Pavillion, Tel Aviv, include 1,600 coins, medals, tokens, and plaques of War II. He designated the bulk of his World War I and 500 items of World World War II collection to the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem.

Mr. Frankenhuis, active participant in AINA and a member of its Board of Directors, considered it a sacred duty to remind the world in general and Jews in particular that not only must they never forget the barbaric cruelty of the Nazis but more positively, they should always remember that six million Jews were methodically slaughtered and most of the world responded with indifference.

Just as the Bible admonished the Jewish people to always remember Amalek, Maurice Frankenhuis used on all his stationery the word "Zachor, Remember"—what the modern day Amaleks, the Nazis, did to six million people. He often said that, unfortunately, to the human mind, "killing one man is murder, killing six million is a statistic."

To contribute to the remembrance of the tragic holocaust, he commissioned the creation of the Frankenhuis Commemorative Art Medal in February 1967 as a tribute to the martyred six million. The now well-known medal reads (on its reverse side): "Despite the Forces of Destruction, Maurice Frankenhuis painstakingly recorded the history of two world wars in his collection." With his death the coin world lost a dedicated and conscientious numismatist and a very real human being.

Development of the Monetary System in Pre-Exilic Palestine

by Dr. Edwin Mendelssohn, (M.D.)

Part II — Continued from Vol. 2, No. 2, Page 23

With increased commercial transactions and the corresponding use of scales and balances, it became apparent that a definite fixed system of weights of "uncoined money" was needed. A system of definite weights and values of the previous metals and their subdivisions and multiples based on the Babylonian system was developed, and in use in the time of Abraham, about 2000 BCE. This system was sexagesimal. The ancient unit of weight was the mina or pound (Heb. maneh). A mina was divided into 50 shekels (Heb. sheqel from shaqal, to weigh) while 60 minas formed a talent (Heb. kikkar, a round cake-like object). The system contained two standards, a light and a heavy, the latter double the weight of the former. The light shekel weighed 126 grains and the heavy 252 grains. These weights applied to both gold and silver. The value of gold to silver over a long period of time was maintained at 13⅓ to 1. The gold shekel originally weighed 1/60th of a mina. The silver shekel to have had an equal value must have weighed 2/9 of a mina. As this would have been impractical for use in commercial transactions the silver shekel was altered in weight to make a whole number of silver shekels the equivalent value of the gold shekel. This was done by raising the weight of the silver shekel from 126 grains to 168 grains, so that 10 silver shekels then equalled one gold shekel. This was done only for the weighing of precious metals, the older system being retained for the ordinary matters and materials. The Babylonian system continued to prevail in Syria, Palestine and Asia Minor, but at some time later the weight standards of the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon, were put in use for silver only. (These cities dominated the trade of Palestine.) Exactly when the change from the silver shekel of Babylon weighing 168 grains to the heavier Phoenician one of 224 grains took place is uncertain.

The Phoenician standard referred to above was a modification of the Babylonian standard. The Phoenician silver shekel weighed only ⅔ of the Babylonian, 168 grains and 336 grains; or 112 grains for the light and 224 grains for the heavy Phoenician. Therefore, 15 Phoenician silver shekels equalled 10 Babylonian silver shekels or one of gold. It was on this Phoenician heavy standard, 224 grains, that the shekel of the sanctuary was calculated. This shekel of the sanctuary probably refers to a weight which was kept in the sanctuary and used as a standard for reference and comparison. Lev. 27:25 "And all thy valuation shall be according to the shekel of the sanctuary". From references in the Bible we are able to compose the following scale: twenty gerahs equal one shekel, Ezek. 45:12, Ex. 30:13, Lev. 27:25, fifty shekels equal one maneh, Ezek. 45:12, and sixty maneh equal one talent, Ex. 38:25. In the earlier system of Babylonian silver values, the silver shekel was divided into thirds, sixths and twelfths: whereas in the Phoenician system it was divided into halves, fourths and eighths. This helps to explain the various subdivisions found in the Bible. The half

Continued on page 22

Photo by **World Journal Tribune**

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Teddy Kollek (l.) of Jerusalem and John V. Lindsay of New York City both were reelected mayor of their respective cities in the same week.

Although separated by 6,000 miles, the two mayors have much in common. Both Kollek and Lindsay are attractive, handsome looking men. Both are outstanding leaders; both have been successful and popular urban developers; and both won the election because of the Jewish vote!

Shown in photo are the two men during a meeting in New York a couple of years ago, when Mr. Kollek presented Mr. Lindsay with a specimen of the Terra Sancta medal of Israel.

The Terra Sancta Medal

The A.N.A. Merit Award

I.G.C.A.M. RECEIVES A.N.A. MERIT AWARD

The Israel Government was awarded the Merit of Exhibit medal in September by the American Numismatic Association. In a communique to Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, the ANA expressed thanks to the Israel Government for participation in the exhibition. The medal, pictured above, commemorates the 78th Anniversary of ANA, and the 1969 Annual Convention held in Philadelphia.

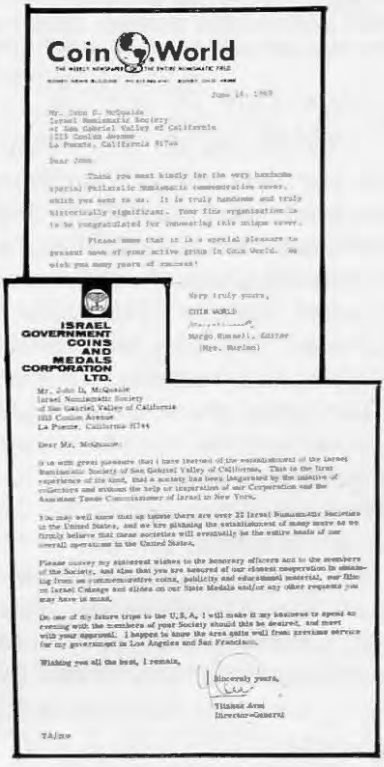
Meet John D. McQuaide

A good friend of Israel, an enthusiastic collector and ambitious organizer of the I.N.S. of San Gabriel Valley—this describes Jack McQuaide, the ever-active president of this California branch of the Israel Numismatic Society.

In promoting interest in the newly-formed club, Mr. McQuaide prepared a most unique first-day first-issue cover commemorating both Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, Israel Independence Day 1969, and the formation of the I.N.S. of San Gabriel Valley. The Special Postal Cover shows (1) the postmark of April 20, the day of the first club meeting, and Israel's 21st Anniversary on a U. S. stamp as well as an Israeli stamp; (2) a 1 agora Israel coin on the front of the envelope — seen through a cellophane window; and (3) an Israel stamp shown through a window on the back of the envelope; (4) the AINA emblem, showing the chapter's affiliation on the upper left; and (5) the emblem of Israel's 21st year in the lower right.

This unusual cover was presented to all charter members of the group and later sold for $6 to help finance the club.

In addition to this, Mr. McQuaide has been singularly responsible for building up the membership of his California chapter and editing its news-packed, four-page bulletin.


Coin World

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD

June 24, 1969

Mr. John D. McQuaide
Israel Numismatic Society
of San Gabriel Valley of California
1313 Conlon Avenue
La Puente, California 91744

Dear John:

Thank you most kindly for the very handsome special philatelic numismatic commemorative cover, which you sent to us. It is truly handsome and truly historically significant. Your fine organization is to be congratulated for innovating this unique cover.

Please know that it is a special pleasure to present news of your active group in Coin World. We wish you many years of success!

Very truly yours,
COIN WORLD
Margo Russell, Editor
(Mrs. Marlan)

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT COINS AND MEDALS CORPORATION LTD.

Mr. John D. McQuaide
Israel Numismatic Society
of San Gabriel Valley of California
1313 Conlon Avenue
La Puente, California 91744

Dear Mr. McQuaide:

It is with great pleasure that I have learned of the establishment of the Israel Numismatic Society of San Gabriel Valley of California. This is the first experience of its kind, that a society has been inaugurated by the initiative of collectors and without the help or inspiration of our Corporation and the Government Coins Commissioner of Israel in New York.

You may well know that at latest there are over 22 Israel Numismatic Societies in the United States, and we are planning the establishment of many more so we firmly believe that these societies will eventually be the entire basis of our overall operations in the United States.

Please convey my sincerest wishes to the honorary officers and to the members of the Society, and also that you are honored of our closest cooperation in obtaining from us commemorative coins, publicity and educational material, our New Israel Coinage and slides on our State Medals and/or any other requests you may have in mind.

In one of my future trips to the U.S.A. I will make it my business to spend an evening with the members of your Society should this be desired, and meet with your approval. I happen to know the area quite well from previous service for my government in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Wishing you all the best, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
Yitzhak Avni
Director-General

YA/ne

Shown in photo (left to right): Mel Wacks, Ed Janis, Morris Bram, Ephraim Levy, Joseph Milo, Mrs. Milo, Ben Spencer and Nathan Sobel.

GALA AFFAIR IN HONOR OF ISRAEL OFFICIALS

It was "bon voyage" to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Milo, and a hearty "hello" to Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Levy at a reception held Aug. 10, at the American-Israel Cultural Foundation in New York City. Mr. Milo served as assistant trade commissioner for the United States and Canada and Mr. Levy assumed the position of consul of Israel and director of the Israel Government Coins and Medal Corporation for North America.

Over 400 dignitaries and guests attended the gala affair. Mr. Yitzhak Avni, director-general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, came from Jerusalem to honor the guests.

Mr. Milo, who has now returned to Israel, has assumed a senior position in the office of Prime Minister Golda Meir.

The Economic Minister of Israel
and Mrs. Shimon Alexandroni
and Yitzhak Avni Director-General of
The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation
request the pleasure of your company
at a reception to bid farewell to
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Milo
and to welcome
Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Levy
at America-Israel Cultural Foundation
4 East 54th Street New York City
on Sunday, August 10, 1969
from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

R.S.V.P.
PL 2-5600
Ext 221

MAGNES MUSEUM MEDAL

A 2" Art Medal in 99.9% Silver honoring Dr. Judah Magnes, Jewish–American educator and founder of the Hebrew University, will soon be made available. Each medal is numbered and signed by Victor Ries, renowned sculptor of Judaic ceremonial art. Cost will be $25 for silver and $6.50 for bronze. For more information write to Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, Calif. 94705.

A.I.N.A. LITERARY AWARD

Twenty articles dealing with various facets of Israel numismatics have been selected as eligible to receive the first annual AINA Literary Award for a major article in *The Shekel*. All articles were published in Volume I (1968) of *The Shekel*.

Articles qualifying for the award and authors are (listed in order of issue):

VOL. I. NO. 1:

The Seafaring Commemorative Coin—Yaakov Meshorer

The Scope of *The Shekel*—Edward Janis

A Medal to Commemorate Six Million Martyrs—Maurice Frankenhuis

Israel's Coinage in the American Numismatic Field—Leon T. Lindheim

The History of Israel's First Coin, Banknote and Medal—Sylvia Haffner

Judaean Jottings—The Jewish Shekel—Mel Wacks

VOL. I. NO. 2:

Scarcities and Sleepers in Israeli Coins—Sylvia Haffner

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin—Jeremy V. Newman, P.E.

Judaean Jottings—A Short Bibliography of Ancient Jewish Numismatics—Mel Wacks

Jerusalem the Holy—Ed Janis

The Mint of King Herod the Great—Yaakov Meshorer

VOL. I. NO. 3:

Commemorative Coin - Medals, An Abandoned Idea—A. Kindler

Jewish Medals in the Netherlands —Matthew J. Van Der Voort

Trends in Paper Money—Sylvia Haffner

Judaean Jottings—Aelia Capitolina—Mel Wacks

The Story of Minting—Stanley Lechner

VOL. I. NO. 4:

The Infamous "Calumnia" Tax —Edward Janis

Lodz Ghetto Money—L. Sarakoff

Trends in Palestine Mandate Coins 1927-47—Sylvia Haffner

Judaean Jottings—Starter Set of Ancient Judaean Coins—M. Wacks

PIDYON HA-BEN

A frantic but successful search for five silver U.S. dollars (no longer in circulation) provided a traditional Pidyon Ha-Ben ceremony for the son of a U.S. serviceman stationed in Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany.

The search for the rare coins was carried out by two Jewish chaplains, a Protestant chaplain and the staff of the 25th Army Postal Unit.

Soon the Pidyon Ha-Ben coins to be issued by the Israel Government will make the traditional ceremonial items easier to find. The Shekel Pidyon Haben will be issued each year, starting in 1970, and will come as a set of five coins, with a certificate attesting to the ritual fitness in the ceremony for the first-born son.

Shown in photo are (*l. to r.*): Mrs. Harvey Klug, Mr. Klug, presenting the U.S. silver dollar to Chaplain Nahum Cohen, and Ramstein Jewish Chaplain Sydney Hoffman.

Continued from page 15

captain of the army. Jonathan as captain was, also, under frequent attack and he too was killed by the Syrians in 143 B.C.E.

In 143-142 B.C.E. Simon made a peace treaty with Demetrius II of Syria. A period of relative peace under the leadership of Simon followed. It was about this time that the first coins of the Jews, by the Jews, and for the Jews were struck. In 138 B.C.E. Simon received permission of Antiochus VII of Syria to "coin money for the country with thine own stamp." Why this permission was necessary and given is not clear, as Judea was a free nation at this time. Some feel these original coins are really those of Simon's son, John Hyrcannus I. In fact, many believe that Simon struck no coins and the first Jewish coins were struck by John Hyrcannus.

Alexander Janneus (103-76 B.C.E.) was the first Maccabean ruler to style himself king on his coins. He, also, was the first to stamp his coins in Greek.

The common symbols on the coins of this period were the anchor (either copied from Etruscan or Selucid coins or perhaps indicating the conquest of Jaffa and other Mediterranean ports) and wheel (connected with solar ideas). These two symbols were later found as synagogue decorations. Janneus' Hebrew name is Jannai or in Greek, Jonathan.

It is unfortunate that the latter Maccabeans were not too different from their "civilized" neighbors. They, too, practiced matricide and fratricide. They, too, attacked their weaker neighbors. In general, they, too, were now a "civilized" people. ●

Continued from page 17

shekel was known as a beka on the basis of Ex. 38:26 wherein it is defined as "half a shekel, by the shekel of the sanctuary", and in Gen. 24:22 when Eliezer, the servant of Abraham, gives to Rebecca "a golden ring of half a shekel weight", the word beka is used. The noun is related to the Hebrew verb "baqa" which means to split. The reference to the quarter shekel is found in 1 Sam. 9:8 where Saul is concerned about a present for the man of God "And the servants answered Saul again, and said 'Behold I have in my hand the fourth (reva) part of a shekel of silver' . . . .".

In regard to the Babylonian references of the subdivision of the shekel we find in Neh. 10:33 the following reference to ⅓ of a shekel "to charge ourselves yearly with the ⅓ part of a shekel for the service of the House of God". Discovery of the pim in excavations clarified the meaning of an hitherto obscure passage in 1 Sam. 13:19-21 wherein "The charge was a pim for the plowshares and for the mattocks". The pim is considered to be ⅔ of a shekel according to the weight of the stone found.

In view of the above regarding the variety of standards in use in Palestine in early times, it would be unwise to estimate the value of the price paid in any transaction in terms of present money. The value of the monies in the Bible is difficult to translate into their equivalents today, not only because of the change in the relative value of the precious metals, but because of the marked difference in the real purchasing power. The purchasing power of any of the metals, which is the real test of the value of money, was many times greater than its equivalent in money today.

Continued on page 24

The ALEPH BETH Page ...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis

Q.—What should I save in Israeli coinage? It should be timely, interesting and be a good investment for the future when I might wish to sell out. I cannot spend too much at one time. H.L., Miami, FLA.

A.—After due consideration, I suggest that you start on the 10 Pound Commemorative Series. What could be more timely and interesting than the themes on the three coins to date. The 1967 shows the Western Wall, emblematic of the restitution of the right of Jewish worship at the holiest relic of the religion. The reverse reminds us that it was accomplished by the military Israel Defense Forces. Their emblem further reminds us that the peaceful olive branch is over the sword and it is the sword that is protecting peace. The 1968 showed a diarama of the now unified city of Jerusalem. I appreciated this coin when on my trip with AINA I visited the Western Wall, went into the Mosque of the Dome of the Rock (with due reverence, quiet and with shoes removed) and was taken to all the Stations of the Cross. Moslem, Christian and Jew now move freely with dignity to all holy places of all faiths and there is freedom of worship for all. This coin exemplifies brotherhood in action. The 1969 features Shalom (peace) and is dedicated to those who sacrificed their lives for the universal right of men to live in freedom, in peace and in independence. This series has a broader base of themes than the five pound series. In popularity it now surpasses the five pound series.

Q.—I would like to know how old is the oldest shekel? What year? How much is it worth? How many are still existing? Mrs. R. S., Surfside, Fla.

A.—Some of the answers are going to surprise you, dear lady. The shekel that we discuss is not the weight of silver used by Abraham when he purchased the cave of Machpelah as a burying place for Sarah . . . . And Abraham . . . . weighed to Ephron . . . . . 400 shekels of silver. We are talking about a coin. Coinage in Asia started with the Lydians. When the Persians under Cyrus conquered Lydia they adopted coinage. Their first coins were the gold daric which was closely followed by a silver coin of the same size and shape called sigli or shekels. Twenty shekels were equivalent to a daric. Other countries had shekels that preceded the shekels of the Jewish War. The most noted is the shekel of Tyre which was the only one accepted for the Temple per capita tax of a half shekel for each male over twenty. I will therefore assume that your question pertains to a Jewish shekel. This coin was formerly believed to be a coin of Simon Maccabee and struck about 138 or 139 B.C.E. Because of numismatic research and the study of hoards like Massada, it is definite that these issues are from the First Revolt. The coins marked year 1 are therefore 66 C.E. The year 1 shekel is very rare. I doubt whether there are thirty in the hands of all collectors today. A very fine specimen because of its demand (the first shekel) and its rarity as opposed to a shekel of year three (more common: like U. S. $4 gold pieces) would bring in an unrestricted auction sale around $5000. ●

Continued from page 22

TABLE 1

Light Shekels

(Heavy Shekels weigh twice as much)

Currency System	Grains of Silver	Times Conversion Factor to Gold	Grains of Silver	Equivalent Grains of Gold	Number of Shekels
Old Babylonian (Divided into Twelfths — 8/12 Shekels = ⅔ = 1 Pim)	126	x 40/3			
New Babylonian	168	x 10	= 1680	= 126	= 1
Phoenician (Divided into Eights — 4/8 Shekels = ½ = 1 Beka)	112	x 15			

TABLE 2

Shekel of the Sanctuary

(Using Phoenician Heavy Standard — Shekel of 224 grains)

Gerah	Shekel	Mina	Kikkar
1/20	1	50	3,000

Editor's Note: In order to simplify the calculations and facilitate the text of Dr. Mendelssohn's article, Jeremy Newman, P.E., has prepared the above tables, showing the value of the shekel.

Mr. Newman, a prominent professional engineer with the City of New York, is the author of several previous articles in **The Shekel** as well as the author of a chart "Jewish Weights and Measures."

Biblical References

Genesis: 13:2; 17:13; 23:16, 24:22; 33–19; 42:35
Exodus: 30:13; 38:25; 38:26.
Leviticus: 27:25
Numbers: 31:50; 31:51
Deuteronomy: 14:24–26; 23:15
Joshua: 24:32
1 Samuel: 9:8; 13:19–21
1 Chronicle: 21–25
Nehemiah: 10:33
Job: 42:11
Isaiah: 46:6
Ezekiel: 45:12

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DID YOU KNOW THAT . . . .

The many individual variations found on early Judaean coinage as well as early coinage from all over the world is due to the fact that these coins were diestruck by hand?

Club News

CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor. The deadline is the first of the month preceding publication.

ISRAEL NIGHT IN ATLANTA ATTRACTS RECORD CROWD

The Jewish Community Center in Atlanta, attracted a record crowd celebrating the inauguration of the Israel Numismatic Society of Georgia. Sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel, the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, A.I.N.A., the Israel Government Tourist Office, and El-Al Israel Airlines, the program was coordinated by former Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel Joseph Milo.

The evening included greetings, awards, presentations, films, folk singers from Israel, and a prize winning display of all Israel State Coins and Medals.

Shown in photo (*r. to l.*)are: the Hon. Ze'ev Bonneh, consul general of Israel; Morris Bram, president of the American-Israel Numismatic Association; Mr. Joseph Milo; the Hon. Sam Massell, Jr., new mayor of Atlanta; Moshe Shoshani, regional representative of the Israel Government Tourist Office; and the Hon. Eliezer Niv, consul of Israel in economic affairs.

MASADA EXHIBIT, ANCIENT JUDAICA COINS HIGHLIGHTS FOR PA. INS.

Dr. Edwin Mendelssohn, writer for *"The Shekel"* and member of the Pennsylvania chapter, spoke at the September 30th meeting on ancient Judaica coins, and showed slides and specimens of the ancient coins. The meeting was held at the Museum of the Philadelphia Civic Center, and members had the opportunity to view the Masada exhibit in the center at this time, reported Judge J. Sydney Hoffman, president.

5 CALIF. INS CLUBS TAKE PART IN EDUCATIONAL FORUM

An Israel Celebration and Educational Forum in the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles, Calif., on June 29 drew the largest crowd ever—1,200 in attendance. Five INS clubs in California participated: INS of San Francisco, INS of Los Angeles, INS of Northern California (Sacramento), INS of Southern California (San Diego), and INS of San Gabriel Valley.

Among the many dignitaries and guests of honor were: Hon. Yitzhak Avni, director-general, Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, Mr. Joseph Milo, former assistant trade commissioner of Israel, Mr. Morris Bram, president of AINA, and Mr. Nathan Sobel, editor of *The Shekel.*

On the light side of the program, there were films, refreshments, and a special performance by Hedva and David, Israeli singing artists.

TEXAS CHAPTER OFF ON RIGHT FOOT

Following the California forum, the Texas chapter of INS in Houston held its June 30 meeting. Despite the 95 degree heat, 400 people were present. Dr. Jacob M. Protas is president of the group.

I.N.S. OF LONG ISLAND ELECTS OFFICERS PRO-TEM

The Israel Numismatic Society of Long Island, N.Y., has elected the following officers pro tem: Morris Bram, president; Mel Wacks, vice-president; Moe Weinschel, vice-president; Perry Rosenfeld, treasurer; and Morton Zerder, secretary.

The INSLI meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Dry Dock Savings Bank in Rockville Center, L.I. and beginners in numismatics as well as advanced collectors are welcome.

Main speaker at the September meeting was Mel Wacks, who presented an illustrated talk on Ancient Judaean Coins. The coinage from the Maccabees (second century B.C.E.) to the Revolt of Bar Kokhba (second century C.E.) were discussed, with particular emphasis on the significance of the symbols and inscriptions. An energetic question-and-answer period followed the lecture.

All members and guests at the meeting were presented with the 1970 New Year's Token through the generosity of Ephraim Levy, the director of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Division.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR INS OF SACRAMENTO

New officers were recently elected in the Sacramento branch of the INS. Shown in photo (*l. to r.*): Harry Leafe, vice-president; Dr. Sanders Rosenberg, president; Rita Rosenberg, secretary; and Al Malkin, treasurer.

I.N.S. OF MASSACHUSETTS

New president of I.N.S. of Massachusetts is Irving L. Rudin, Esq., 156 Oak Street, Newton, Mass. 02164 and secretary, Sandra Walter, 17 Westmore Rd., Mattapan, Mass. 02126.

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cal aura engulfed us all. Only our guide, Eli Ayalon, talked and we listened. He sounded like a prophet talking about ancient Jerusalem to modern tourists.

The following day was dedicated entirely to New and Old Jerusalem. We visited among many other sites, the Government offices complex, the Knesset (Parliament), the National Museum complex, the Hebrew University, the Hadassah Medical Center, and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. A small group visited the newly-build Jerusalem Mint, and the government printing office.

Mayor Teddy Kollek (center) receives A.I.N.A. plaque from Morris Bram, president, and Nathan Sobel, editor, "The Shekel."

In the morning, Morris Bram, AINA president, Chester Krause and Russell Rulau, publisher and editor respectively of major numismatic publications in the USA, and your editor of *The Shekel,* were invited for a private audience with well-known numismatist Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem. We later rejoined the rest of the group.

In the afternoon our excursion took us into the old city, visiting King David's tower, the old Jewish Quarter, the Western Wall, the Temple Mount of Mt. Moriah, the Dome of the Rock, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We walked through several of the gates leading into the walled city. It was like walking through the Bible in itself. All these sites we knew only from post

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OVER 300 MEMBERS IN NEWLY-FOUNDED DETROIT CHAPTER

Recently-formed chapter of I.N.S. of Michigan reported a record attendance of 300 members at their Oct. 29 meeting. President of the club is Mr. Sidney Bluestone.

FIVE MEMBERS OF I.N.S. OF ILLINOIS DISCUSS AND SHOW JUDAICA ITEMS

At the October meeting of the INS of Illinois five members presented displays to the club. Mr. Stewart Koppel displayed four medals issued by the International Numismatic Agency commemorating the 1967 Six-Day War; Mr. Ben Odesser showed several Judaic tokens; Dr. Alan Feinberg spoke of two important books to numismatists—*Great Jewish Portraits in Metal* by Daniel M. Friedenberg and *Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period* by Yaakov Meshorer. Mr. Harry Flower exhibited gold coins used in Palestine prior to the British Mandate and also coins and paper currency issued by the Palestine Currency Board. Nathan Eglit spoke and displayed a most unusual collection of false shekels or shekel medals, and also some imitation shekels.

Ten new members joined the Illinois coin club in the last month.

Three members of the INS exhibited at the Annual Coin Show of the Oak Park held September 20-21 at the Oak Park Club: Dr. Alan Feinberg, Stewart Koppel and Harry Flower. The last two were judged as the two best exhibits of the show.

AINA TOUR: IMPRESSIONS

Every program has its pluses and minuses . . . and no different was the AINA tour, if the impressions and criticisms noted by participants are taken into consideration.

On the plus side, the kudos were many:

"We enjoyed the trip; we enjoyed the company—to us it was a delight."

"It was an emotional and visual experience, in Israel especially, which we shall never forget."

"The entire group blended so well and provided so much pleasure and companionship to the trip that it could not have been arranged better."

"It was a huge success and everyone got more out of it than expected."

And, then again, on the other side, opinions were also expressed for future tours:

"Provide list of coin dealers and their addresses."

"More time for ourselves."

"Trip should be longer."

"Spend more time with ancient culture and archaeology."

"Visit kibbutzim."

"Visit Israel's mint."

Additional plaudits were acclaimed by the two youngest members of the AINA tour, Jeffrey and Jonathan Coopersmith of Chevy Chase, Md., who accompanied their mother Esther.

Jeffrey, age 9, wrote AINA President Morris Bram, "We would like to thank you for what you have done for us. This is a most exciting trip. We loved Israel, Greece, and we are sure to like Italy too. The most out of the trip so far besides coins was learning the history of these lands."

And Jonathan, aged 13, contributed the following about the trip to Italy and Greece, expressly for publication in *The Shekel:*

"Numismatically speaking our trip to Athens and Rome was not as interesting as Israel. As a matter of fact more ancient Greek and Roman coins can be found in Israel than in the two countries. Our trip was highlighted by a visit to the Italian Numismatic Museum. There we found collections of coins from nearly every country of the world, including Israel. Although lacking in quantity, it was sufficient in quality. However they were lacking in commemoratives such as the Bar-Mitzvah, Seafaring and Victory coins.

"The American collection contained the finest collection of gold pieces I've seen in a long time. One of those pieces was the four dollar gold piece which few people know exist and fewer still have one.

"In short our AINA trip to Greece and Rome was first for relaxation. In my opinion, the entire AINA trip from start to finish was a great success."

Coopersmith boys greeted by Director–General of IGCAM, Mr. Yitzhak Avni.

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cards. Here they opened up before our eyes in all their ancient historical splendor and magnificence. Imagine, you can touch ancient history and be a part of it in the 20th century.

As we approached the holiest and most sacred shrine the Jewish people have, the Western Wall, I felt like I was walking on a cloud. I just did not believe it. If the stones of this wall could only talk, they would have preserved some of the ancient glory and rich spiritual heritage and life in Jerusalem. They would have told us of the

Yad–Vashem Memorial

glorious kingdoms of Solomon and David, and the people of Israel, of the destructions of the first and second temples (the second one *exactly* 1900 years ago), of the exiles of the Jewish people from Jerusalem, and of all the succeeding conquerors and occupiers until our era, when Jerusalem is once again free for all peoples. The yearning expressed in the psalm "If I forget thee O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning . . ." is one of the most poignant expressions ever— and it was not in vain.

We visited the Temple Mount afterwards, where the Dome of the Rock and the El Aksa Mosque, third most sacred shrine of Islam, stand, and then proceeded through the Arab market and the points of interest in the old city. Later on several AINA members made some quickie purchases of souvenirs and ancient coins. It turned out later that the ancient coins weren't so ancient after all . . . . . and that they were poor copies at that.

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CONGRESSMAN PODELL: HONORARY AINA MEMBER

The AINA Tour to Israel was pleased and proud to have Congressman Bertram L. Podell from the 13th District, Brooklyn, New York, as a member of the 1969 numismatic tour.

In a letter to the editor of *The Shekel*, Mr. Podell writes: "My trip to Israel was indeed a fruitful one. While there, I visited the refugee camps, various *kibbutzim*, and attended sessions of the Knesset. I had the great pleasure of interviews with Mrs. Golda Meir, and David Ben Gurion at the *kibbutz* where he lives, and with whom I was privileged to have most enlightening conversations."

Congressman Podell, a graduate of St. John's University and Brooklyn Law School, was elected to Congress in February 1968. He serves on the House Administration Committee and the Science and Astronautics Committee of the House. He formerly served as member of the New York State Assembly 1954-68.

Congressman Podell (center) participates in AINA Forum in Tel–Aviv. Former Trade Commissioner Joseph Milo is on left and U.S. Cultural Attache on right.

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A gala dinner reception was held that evening by Mr. Yitzhak Avni, director-general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation in honor of the AINA members. Many dignitaries and officials of the government and diplomatic corps as well as professionals and hobbyists attended the affair in the King David Hotel. Among the dignitaries present were Mr. and Mrs. Mordechai Avida (Miriam is director of public relations of IGCAM), Ted Lurie (editor of "The

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"Masada shall not fall again"

LETTERS

We get letters from many of the participants in the AINA tour, both from here and from Israel, ascribing to the success of last March's trip. Among those received by AINA were:

From Yehoshua Rabinowitz, mayor, Tel-Aviv: "I am honored to convey to you my congratulations on the occasion of the First Numismatic Convention of the American Israel Numismatic Association . . . . It is a pleasure for me to welcome you all in Tel-Aviv-Yafo, on behalf of myself and on behalf of the Municipality, which has been instrumental in developing the museum complex, where your Convention is taking place."

From Arie Kindler, director, Museum Haaretz, Tel-Aviv: "I would like to express herewith my sincere thanks for your cooperation and assistance in the organization of AINA convention in the Museum Ha'aretz. It was an extraordinary experience for me to have the group of AINA with us.

I am also grateful to you for handing over to me the beautiful plaque with which you honored me very much. Thanks also for the two medals of President Nixon and our late Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, you were kind enough to donate to the Kadman Numismatic Museum. As I already expressed in my address to the convention, I hope that stronger ties do bind us now, after we met."

From Blaise J. Dantone, Peachtree Coin Shop, Inc., Atlanta, Ga.: Allow me to take this opportunity to first tell you how nice it was to meet you and how much I enjoyed your company on the tour to Israel . . . Your handling of the tour in the manner which you did helped make my tour much more enjoyable. I think you conducted this convention in a way that there was no room for improvement. Everything went off real smoothly, and I am sure everyone on the tour has the same sentiments about it that I do."

From Comm. Arie Ben-Eli, director, Maritime Museum, Haifa: "At this opportunity I want to express our thanks for the medals: North Carolina, Mississippi and Constitution, you so kindly presented to the Museum. The medals were registered in the Inventory Book of the Museum under Nos.: 4002, 4003, 4004. Thanks also for the Maduro Medal."

The PRUTA Series

*25 MILS**

OBVERSE: In the centre, a cluster of grapes, the word "Israel" in Hebrew above, and in Arabic underneath. This cluster appeared first on ancient coinage on the bronze prutot of Herod Archelaus and later in higher relief on the silver and bronze coins of the period of the Bar-Kochba revolt. The vine is another of the seven biblical kinds of fruit with which the Land was blessed. The rim is pearled.

Obverse

Reverse

Metal: Aluminum
Weight: 3.5 grams
Diameter: 30 mm.
Year: 5709 (1949)
Edges: Smooth

REVERSE: Between two olive-branches the inscription: "25 Mils" in Hebrew and Arabic and the year: "5709". The design first appeared on the coins of the Hasmonean dynasty beginning with those of Yohanan Hyrkanos I (135-104 BCE).

*This is the only Israeli MIL Coin; minted under very difficult conditions. It had indeed a very short life, since it was withdrawn from circulation in 1950. The 25 pruta (cupro–nickel) replaced this Aluminum coin.

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Jerusalem Post"), and Max Nurock (former Israeli ambassador to Australia and an ardent numismatist). Mr. Avni toasted all the guests and expressed the hope that on the basis of the success of this tour other numismatic pilgrimages will follow.

The following day the tour visited the tomb of Rachel, south of Jerusalem, and then headed further south through the Judaean hills. To our left we could see the Dead Sea, the lowest place on the face of the earth with an elevation of 392 meters (1286 feet) and as we drew closer we saw from afar the flat table-like plateau—the rock of Massada. A national monument today frequented by young and old alike, Massada was the last stand of about 1900 Jewish zealots (men, women, and children) against an army of 10,000 Roman soldiers. Beleaguered by these massive armies for three years, Massada finally fell after the Jews committed mass suicide in order to die as free men, and not to be taken as

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Israel has four seas, one is blue, one is dead, the third is sweet and the fourth is red. The itinerary of A.I.N.A. included all four. The blue Mediterranean, the Dead Sea, we saw from Masada, the Sweet Sea of Galilee (Tiberias), and the Red Sea, while visiting the southern most resort–port city of Eilath.

". . . . And you will rejoice in your festivals . . . ."

Each year in honor of the round of Jewish festivals the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation issues a special Season's Greetings token.

This year's motif is taken from a bronze coin of "year four" of the War of the Jews against Rome (69 CE). It features the *arba'ah minim,* the four species—the palm branch, the myrtle, the willow, and the citron (*etrog*)—used on the celebration of Sukkot.

The Jewish Year begins with the celebration of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. A Day of Remembrance and of Blowing the Shofar, Rosh Hashana is traditionally a day of solemn rest and meditation, when Jews pray that they will be inscribed in the Book of Life for a year of peace and blessing.

Following ten days later is the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. A day of fasting and prayer, Yom Kippur is a time for asking forgiveness from God for deeds committed throughout the year past and for praying to be "sealed" in the Book of Life.

Two following holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah, are quite different in spirit from the solemnity of the High Holy Days. These two festivals, known as the Feast of Tabernacles and the Rejoicing over the Torah, are joyful, happy feasts commemorating respectively, the harvest when Jews in ancient times lived in huts in the wilderness, and the time of finishing and beginning once again the cycle of reading the Torah.

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slaves. Today, the proud people of Israel go there to swear that "Massada shall not fall again."

It took us several hours to scale the mountain. We were tired but content. There were several groups of young Israelis viewing the recent excavations of King Herod's Palace, his hideaway, the living quarters of the zealots, and remnants of earthenware and wells. Among the most distinguished excavations was an ancient sunken synagogue, probably the oldest of its kind. Eli, our guide, gave us a brief talk about the historical importance and influence of Massada on modern Israel. Then we too swore that "Massada shall not fall again." To commemorate this event Mrs. Miriam Avida gave each participant a specially struck Massada Medal, a very limited edition, something every numismatist is proud to own.

On March 20, in the wee hours of the morning, the whole AINA entourage left from Lod (Lydda) Airport, some to return directly to the USA and others to spend an additional four-days in Greece and Rome. ●

1970 SPECIMEN SETS REVEALED

The new 1970 specimen sets, minted in Jerusalem, will be released in February 1970. For the first time the sets will be offered to collectors in two forms: one, in a new plastic wallet-size; and two, in the regular cardboard form used until now.

SEASONS GREETINGS

The symbols of the twelve tribes